

HAITIAN PEOPLE PURSUE STABLE, PROSPEROUS AND DEMOCRATIC FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my longstanding commitment to assist the Haitian people in their pursuit of a stable, prosperous and democratic future.

During my trip to Haiti, I was reminded of the tremendous challenges facing this island nation. The U.N.'s appointment of President Clinton as special envoy to Haiti has helped to keep a much-needed spotlight on Haiti. President Clinton's appointment of Dr. Paul Farmer as the Deputy U.N. Special Envoy for Haiti, adds an invaluable wealth of experience and knowledge to the U.N.'s work in Haiti.

As a founder of Partners in Health and the Institute for Justice & Democracy in Haiti, Dr. Farmer has demonstrated a selfless commitment to the advancement of health and democracy in Haiti for the past 20 years. I have witnessed firsthand Dr. Farmer's dedication to helping improve the lives of those in need.

He has strong south Florida ties. I am proud to call him a friend, along with our mutual friend, Jennie Block, who has also worked so hard on issues of concern to the Haitian community.

I understand that the conference on the Inter-American Development Bank in Haiti went quite well. I was pleased to see that the United Nations voted unanimously this week to extend the authorization for the U.N. Mission in Haiti for another year.

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I would also like to take a moment to express my condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in last weekend's plane crash during a U.N. mission. The U.N. mission in Haiti has helped to play an important role in bringing security and stability to some of the most dangerous neighborhoods in Haiti. I continue to support its mission and the many men and women from around the world who work to carry it out.

However, it seems that Haiti just can't get to the next step. From assistance to debt relief, from trade benefits to hurricane recovery, U.S. policy toward Haiti has run the gamut, but it is not achieving the long-term goals that we had hoped for for the Haitian people and that the Haitian people want for themselves and their nation.

I am pleased to know that our State Department is taking a closer look at some of the challenges we are facing in Haiti. Last week, Secretary Clinton's chief of staff and her point person on Haiti briefed Members on some of the initial findings of this review.

I am confident that this review will help us to better understand how U.S. assistance to Haiti can be better targeted and supportive of Haiti's own

plans and goals; how assistance within the donor community can be better coordinated; how the U.S. can better engage the Haitian Diaspora in our assistance efforts; and, finally, how the U.S. can finally make our assistance sustainable so that outside efforts can ultimately be transferred into the hands of the Haitian government and its people.

It is crucial that the efforts made by the U.S., the U.N. and others are effectively coordinated to ensure maximum efficiency and maximum benefit for the people of Haiti. Innovative microcredit and microenterprise programs would help to empower individuals, create self-reliance and create sustainability at the grassroots level. We should also look at the very small-scale renewable energy programs for impoverished rural villages and settlements that are not served by electric grids.

One of the immediate ways we can help the people of Haiti would be to grant temporary protected status to the Haitians currently living in the U.S. Granting TPS to Haitians is the missing piece of a successful U.S. approach to supporting the people of Haiti in the short and long term. I will continue to work with my colleagues to encourage the administration to take this important step.

In addition, I will continue to support Haiti's inclusion in security initiatives, such as the Merida Initiative, to ensure that the U.S. is doing all we can to help President Preval in his efforts against the narco-traffickers.

Success in Haiti is in the U.S. national security interest, and we must work together to help address the many challenges we face and that our Caribbean neighbor faces day in and day out.

PURSUIT OF AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WEINER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure again to come to the floor to talk about the issue that is capturing all of the national attention and a lot of attention of this body, and that is our pursuit of affordable health care for all Americans.

There has been a lot of discussion about this so-called public option, this choice people would have when they are searching for insurance when they don't have it, the idea being that if you have a public alternative, an option that doesn't rely on profits, that doesn't rely on high overhead, that consumers would have a chance to choose it if they don't have insurance through their own employers.

Now, it is interesting, because just this week we got an enormous boost, those of us who care about having a public option in the final bill, and it came from, of all places, the health in-

surance lobby. In a rare moment of candor, in a rare moment of telling us exactly what it is that they are going to do, they have told us something that should come as no surprise to anyone that has health insurance. They said they are going to keep raising rates. They said we can pass whatever we want here in Washington, they are going to keep raising rates. As a matter of fact, by their calculation, by 111 percent.

Well, on one hand, I am stunned that they told the truth. On the other hand, I am not very surprised. Our rates have been going up twice if not three times the rate of our salaries every year. They have been going up about \$1,000 for people who have health insurance. So the idea that they are thumping their chest and saying they are going to keep doing it is not a surprise. But the fact that they were so honest about making it very clear that we need competition for the health insurance companies is refreshing.

They have made it crystal clear. The private insurance companies have said, you know what? If you don't have competition for us, rates are going to keep going up.

The public option, by the way, is not a mysterious thing. A lot of my colleagues here in the House of Representatives have it. Yes. They have Medicare. And I checked. Not a single one of them that is eligible for the government public plan we have today has said no. Maybe it is because they are like the country, that says, you know what? Ninety-six percent of people say they like Medicare. They like the care they get. It only has 3.5 percent overhead, not the 30 percent overhead and profits that private insurance companies get.

They like it, but they don't want you to have it. They don't want you to have the plan that they have. So many Members of Congress who are 65 say, no, you can't have it if you are 55 or 45 or 35. It is only for us.

Well, that is not exactly true. It is for every single American who turns 65. It is a government-funded, single-payer, government-administered health care plan that every year we do a survey about, and 96 percent of people who are on Medicare say they like it.

You can do the following test: Knock on the door or go to a neighbor or stop someone at the diner who looks like they are 55. Ask them, would you like it if tomorrow you got Medicare? Watch their face light up. They would love it.

Now, we are not proposing that. The President is not proposing that. I know I would like to have a program like Medicare for all Americans. All that is being proposed in the public option is that people who don't have insurance through their work, people that don't have insurance through Medicare or Medicaid, that relatively small group of people, the 10 percent or so of the country, that when they go out and

shop for insurance with the subsidies we are going to give them, one of the options is not the insurance companies that said in this report they are going to raise rates 111 percent. That is it. That is what the big bogeyman is all about.

Let me show you this chart here to give you a sense for how unfrightening that concept would be. This is the \$2.6 trillion of money we spend every year on health care. \$2.6 trillion. I ask my colleagues, do you think we can do a little better for \$2.6 trillion. We are getting such a great bargain?

Well, let's take a look at this. These boxes here, Medicare, Medicaid, DOD, Veterans Affairs and Department of Health Services, are all single-payer, government-funded, government-administered health care plans. And every day I hear my Republican friends thumping their chest, you gotta protect the VA, you gotta protect Medicare.

Oh, yeah? But you don't want to extend it to the rest of the country. Why is that? What is the big fear? The fear is, they are in a wholly owned subsidiary of this group right here. This is the private insurance companies, the ones that wrote this report that says that rates are going to go up 111 percent.

Now, in this \$854 billion, do you know how much of that is profits and overhead? Take a guess. Up to 30 percent. And what some of us are saying is, if you want to find savings in the system, and you don't want to cut into health care, maybe it is a place to start. Can you do maybe with 10 percent? 12 percent? 15 percent? Up to 30 percent. That is savings that we can get right there. But we are trying to get savings using a free market model. Competition. Let's see if there is someone that can do it more efficiently than 30 percent overhead.

We know, for example, Medicare can do it with about 3.5 percent overhead. That is the public option, and my colleagues don't want them to have what they have, which is government-funded health care.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFazio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BURKE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, Hollywood has lost another star with the passing of Paul Burke at the age of 83. Paul Burke was best known for the role he played of Colonel Joe Gallagher in the TV series "Twelve O'Clock High." He was also known for winning two Emmy nominations for his role as Detective Adam Flint on the critically acclaimed New York cop drama "The Naked City."

Paul was born on July 21st, 1926, in New Orleans, son of prizefighter Martin Burke, who became a promoter and nightclub owner. While growing up, Burke's family owned the popular French Quarter nightclub and restaurant Marty Burke's.

After moving to Hollywood as a young man in the late 1940s, Burke studied acting at the Pasadena Playhouse for 2 years. Movie director Lloyd Bacon, a friend of Burke's father, got him his first role, an unaccredited bit part in the 1951 Betty Grable musical "Call Me Mister."

In addition to his wife of 30 years, Burke is survived by his three children from his first marriage, Paula Burke-Lopez, Paul Brian Burke, and Dina Burke-Shawkat; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The Hollywood community, his family, friends and colleagues will miss him and his contributions to the entertainment industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING THE NEW YORK YANKEES ON THEIR VICTORY OVER THE MINNESOTA TWINS

(Mr. ELLISON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, as the proud Representative who represents the district of the Minnesota Twins, I made an arrangement with my good friend JOE SERRANO about the outcome of the Minnesota Twins-Yankees series, and on October 11th, the New York Yankees defeated my beloved Minnesota Twins in the American League Division Series.

Before I begin, I made the agreement with Representative SERRANO with full expectation that the Twins would prevail. But that didn't happen. So keeping my word, I just want to come to,

quote-unquote, sing the praises of the Yankees. And, let me tell you, it is not going to be easy.

Ten times the Yankees and the Twins met this year, and ten times the Yankees were victorious. They were undoubtedly the better ball club this year, and I am sure that in the coming weeks, Joe Girardi will fulfill the promise he made when he picked his uniform number to bring the 27th championship to the Bronx.

Good luck to the Yankees. Congratulations. Your victory is further testimony to why you are the most storied baseball franchise in Major League Baseball.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SERGEANT MICKEY HUTCHENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to remember the life and service of Sergeant Mickey Hutchens, a Winston-Salem police officer who passed away on Monday surrounded by friends and family at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.

Sergeant Hutchens is a North Carolina hero. He gave his life protecting the public from a dangerous criminal. Sergeant Hutchens was shot last week while pursuing an armed criminal in Winston-Salem. With his passing, the Winston-Salem community grieves the loss of one of its finest.

He faithfully served on the police force for 27 years, putting his life on the line each day that he showed up for work. We owe him and his family a deep debt of gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice that Sergeant Hutchens made for the public safety.

Police officers and public safety workers like him are the key to safe communities that are often taken for granted. Great tragedies, like Sergeant Hutchens' death, serve to remind us of the heroic work done each day by officers like him.

Sergeant Hutchens was more than just a faithful public servant. He was well-known as a man of impeccable character who was committed to maintaining his integrity at all costs. He was just the type of person you would want wearing the uniform of a police officer.

He lived a life dedicated not to just keeping his community safe, but also to his family and his church. He was a loving and dedicated father of two daughters, Jill and Leah, and a faithful, loving husband to his wife Beth. He was often found serving in his role as a deacon at Forbush Baptist Church.

Sergeant Hutchens left a noble legacy in his community. He lived to serve and protect others. His life is a true inspiration, and I pray that his death reminds us of the bravery and sacrifice of those keeping our streets safe each day.

Today, his family, friends and colleagues are in my thoughts and prayers